

REMARKS

The Examiner alleges that the claims are drawn to multiple inventions, and required restriction to one of the inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 372. See Office Action at page 2.

Group I contains claims 1, 2 and 4-14, drawn to a compound, 8 to 80 nucleobases in length, targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding hydroxysteroid 11-beta dehydrogenase 1.

Group II contains claims 15-20, drawn to a method of treating various diseases and conditions via a compound of group I.

In accordance with the Restriction Requirement, and without acquiescing to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants elect Group I, with traverse. Applicants believe that the Examiner has inadvertently excluded claim 3 from the grouping of the claims set forth. Claim 1, incorporated into Group I, is presented as a linking claim and encompasses the sequences set forth in claim 3. As such, Applicants believe claim 3 should be grouped within Group I since it falls within the scope of the claim 1. Applicants consider this suggestion commensurate with the Restriction Requirement and Applicant's election of Group I. Should the Examiner find this suggestion unacceptable, Applicants invite the examiner to place Claim 3 in the appropriate grouping.

Claims belonging to non-elected groups are canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicant preserves the right to pursue such claims in one or more divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present response is complete and complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §121 and 372.

FEES

It is believed that no fee is due with the filing of this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account Number 50-0252 referencing Docket No. RTS0428USA.

Respectfully submitted,


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